

CONGRATULATIONS TO JESSE M. BALTAZAR ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

## HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a great American patriot, Mr. Jesse M. Baltazar, on the occasion of his 95th birthday. His service to America covers three wars, four federal agencies, postings in nine countries and government travel to over 80 nations. He is a true and tested member of the Greatest Generation.

Major Jesse M. Baltazar, USAF (Ret.) was born in Manila, Philippines on October 8th, 1920, and began his military career with the United States Armed Forces, Far East (USAFFE). He is a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam; a Japanese Prisoner of War and Bataan Death March Survivor.

During Maj. Baltazar's Purple Heart ceremony on January 20, 2015, former Chief-of-Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno summarized Maj. Baltazar's career to this country as follows:

I am moved by Maj. Baltazar's humility, his selflessness, and his service to our Nation . . . It's a story about a young man from the Philippines who fought to defend both his home and our Nation following the fateful attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; a story about a man who understands the importance of unparalleled national commitment and the willingness to volunteer and serve; a story of honor and courage; and a story about an American Patriot, Soldier, Airman, and Diplomat.

And Gen. Odierno went on to describe the bravery of Maj. Baltazar during the Battle of Bataan, which earned him the Purple Heart:

On March 15, 1942, Sergeant Baltazar was hit by shrapnel in the leg when the Japanese bombed an area near his camp. With the American and Filipino forces now having been cut off since January 1942, supplies were dwindling and facilities were limited. So he underwent surgery in an open air jungle hospital with minimal anesthesia and little time to recover. As the battle raged on and our Soldiers valiantly fought to hold the line, 76,000 American and Filipino soldiers eventually were forced to put down their arms and surrender on April 9, 1942.

When the Bataan Death March began, Sergeant Baltazar was forced to use a bamboo stick as a cane to help him walk. He suffered brutality and starvation at the hands of his Japanese captors in conditions that led to the spread of disease. Exhausted and fearing that he was going to die, he seized an opportunity to escape on the third night into the infamous 66 mile march. Hiding in a fisherman's boat for a two-hour ride through the thick swamp, Sergeant Baltazar found his way back home, where he proceeded to join the Filipino resistance movement—what an incredible example of the strength of the human spirit.

After being discharged from the army in 1945, he went on to become the first Filipino-born Officer in the United States Air Force in 1948. He served for 20 years in the Air Force, primarily overseas as a Special Agent in the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), where he authored the monthly Counter-Intelligence report for Korea (1950–52), West Berlin (1956–58) and France (1958–60). During the Korean War, he was one of a handful of

American officers posted to Korea that spoke both Russian and Chinese. During the Cold War, he was stationed in Berlin when the Berlin Wall was erected. After retiring from the military he worked for the United States Department of State, USAID and the Department of Labor. From 1966–70 with USAID, he served in Vietnam as Deputy Provincial Advisor. During the Sandinista conflict, he served as Regional Security Officer with the Voice of America for Nicaragua, Belize and Costa Rica. He retired from the State Department in 1988 and then returned as a contract employee. Maj. Baltazar continues to serve at the Department of State, where at 95, he is their eldest worker.

Maj. Baltazar received his BS from Georgetown University in Linguistics and MA from the University of Virginia in Education. He speaks seven languages, including Russian, Chinese, German, French, Spanish, English and Tagalog.

His military awards and decorations include: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, WWII Victory Medal, POW Medal, American Defense Service Medal, WWII Theater Campaign (Pacific), The Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, UN Service Medal, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Maj. Baltazar is a devoted husband and father. He has been happily married to his wife Margrit for 55 years. They have five children, Katherine, Susanne, Thomas, Phillip and Melchior, and are blessed with nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Few choose to lead a life of service like Jesse M. Baltazar. He is a living inspiration to all of us of the character, honor, and commitment required to keep our nation free. It is a great honor today to recognize him on his 95th birthday, for his dedication and sacrifice to our great country.

## REMEMBERING A TOLEDO TRADITION

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a landmark business in Toledo, Ohio. Red Wells Roast Beef restaurant closed its doors this month after nearly 100 years of serving its traditional hot roast beef sandwich. As he retires, owner Richard Wells does not wish to sell the restaurant and its homemade offerings.

Legendary in West Toledo, Red Wells officially began in 1894 when Allen and Eva Wells served food in their hotels, boarding houses and saloons. After he returned from service in World War 1, their son Clark Wells—nicknamed “Red”—partnered with his father to open up a restaurant serving signature hot roast beef sandwiches. The restaurant grew quickly and in 1930 the family opened up two restaurants in downtown Toledo, one of which was the first restaurant in the city to be electrified. Richard Wells started in the family business in 1946. He persuaded the family to open up its current location on Sylvania Avenue in West Toledo in 1957.

The business continued to do well offering a menu of items first cooked by Eva Wells: in

addition to the most luscious hot roast beef sandwiches anywhere in the world, the restaurant also served such comfort food as mashed potatoes and Red Wells' famous gravy, a hot turkey sandwich, green beans, corn, pies and pudding. Richard Wells also grew the business to other locations, but it was the Sylvania Avenue restaurant that was the business' mainstay.

A gathering place for friends and family, both the regular and occasional diners of Red Wells will surely miss its homey cafeteria atmosphere, friendly staff and hearty food. Just as the restaurant was generational, so too were the diners. Patrons passed their love of Red Wells down through their children. On its last day there were so many people the restaurant could not serve them all.

As Richard Wells eases into retirement, we wish him much enjoyment spending time doing what he wishes and being with those for whom he cares. May he know that the legend that became Red Wells Roast Beef restaurant will live on in Toledo memory.

## HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AND THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOLIET CHAPTER OF KIWANIS

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis International and the 95th anniversary of the Joliet Chapter of Kiwanis. What began with only two members on a fateful fall day in 1914 has grown to an international organization with over 600,000 members that devote over 6 million hours of service annually. On January 21, 1915 the state of Michigan returned the corporate charter, this date has been celebrated as the birthday of Kiwanis ever since.

With their motto, “Serving the Children of the World,” Kiwanis International has done just that, improving the lives of children across the world, one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis International has reached this milestone because it has always stayed true to the six permanent Objects of Kiwanis International, which remain unchanged since their approval in 1924.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 100th and 95th anniversaries of Kiwanis International and the Joliet Chapter of Kiwanis as they continue their long tradition of fellowship and service.

## HONORING DAWN DOWDY

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Dawn Dowdy a track coach and mentor and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Dawn Dowdy was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.